

Fort Sheridan Quartermaster and Commissary
Storehouses (Building No. 35)
West side of Lyster Rd.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-9

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, QUARTERMASTER AND
COMMISSARY STOREHOUSE
(Building No. 35)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/9-

Location: West side of Lyster Road between Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building no. 45) on the north and Work Shops (Building no. 36), on the south, Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16.432780.4673540.

Present Owner and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Administration.

Significance: A building which exemplifies the appropriateness of form and fine detail which characterize the basically utilitarian structures designed by Holabird and Roche for Fort Sheridan. Constructed as a storehouse, it makes a notable addition to the comprehensiveness of the surviving 19th century building stock at the post.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Williams and Company. Completed by John A. Reichelt and Company of Chicago.
5. Original plan and construction: A long, one and one-half story building constructed of buff-cream brick with a gable roof with raked parapets and dormers. The two original entrances are at each end of the east side. The ridge of the roof runs north-south.

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6. Additions and alterations: Two additional entrances have been cut through at the center of the main facade. An addition of composition siding has been added to the rear, covering all that elevation with the exception of two bays. This addition houses the stairs to the basement and to the loft. Originally the stairs were on the outside of the building. The addition has no basement and sits on concrete piers. The roof, originally covered with tin is now covered with cement asbestos shingles.

The basement windows have been infilled with glass brick. Some of the original rounded transoms have been infilled with brick and several of the rounded windows have been squared off. A central loft door on the south gable end has been replaced by two windows. The brick utilized for these modifications is a pink-red color.

The interior of the building was remodeled for use as a non-commissioned officers' club in 1955. In the mid 1960s it was again remodeled for use as offices.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original Architectural Drawings:

Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Manuscript plans, 1888. Elevations, n.d.

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. Drawings and elevations, n.d. Drawings are water damaged.

2. Old views:

Mackern, H.G. Fort Sheridan: At Attention and Rest, Chicago, H.G. Mackern, 1897, n.p.

Views of Fort Sheridan, Record Group 92, Audio Visual Archives, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. ca. 1897. Reference nos.: 92-F-61A-20, 92-F-61A-22.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the
Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence
Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster
General, Construction Division, Record Group 92.
U.S. Army Continental Command, 6th Corps Area
Records, Record Group 394, National Archives and
Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities
Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
June, 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A long building with raked parapets, arched windows and rows of dormers. Its decorative detail reflects the Richardsonian Romanesque style popular at the time of its construction and is similar to that on other Holabird and Roche buildings at Fort Sheridan.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is one and one-half stories high with a full basement. It has nineteen bays across the facade and measures 32' by 200'.
2. Foundations: Limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Cream-buff brick laid in common bond.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.

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5. Chimneys: There are two interior brick chimneys, one located on the south gable end and one at the center of the building. An exterior brick chimney is located on the north gable end.
6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There are four entrances on the facade. One is located at each end, and two are located in the center, one on each side of the firewall. The center entrances are not original.

Three of the entrances are formed by rounded gauged brick arches. Rounded transoms on all but the southernmost entrance have been infilled with brick. The southernmost door is wood with a single light and glazed transom. The other two doors are glass in metal frames. The fourth entrance, just north of the central firewall, is rectangular with a glass door in a metal frame.

On the north gable end, two doors at the bottoms of flights of concrete stairs provide access to the basement. There are no entrances on the south gable end.

At the rear of the building there are two entrances into the small section of the building that is not covered by the addition. One provides access to the first level. It is formed by a gauged brick arch and has a rounded transom. The door is wood with a single light. The second door provides access to the basement.

There is only one entrance into the addition. It is reached by two separate flights of stairs which meet at a central landing by the door. Inside the addition the stairs continue up to the loft.

- b. Windows: The original windows on the main floor have gauged brick arches. There are fifteen across the facade and four on each of the gable ends, two on each side of the chimneys. The basement windows have flat gauged brick arches.

On the gable ends at loft level, two windows have replaced a loft door. These windows have narrow segmental arches of gauged brick.

The windows on the main level are four-over-four-light double hung sash. Those at basement level and those on the main level of the north gable end, including a fifth window on that end which was cut through later are infilled with glass brick. The windows in the addition are one-over-one double hung sash.

The window sills are poured concrete.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Raked parapets at the gable ends and firewall have terra cotta coping and stone brackets.
- b. Dormers: Twelve hipped dormers, six on the facade and six on the rear. Each dormer contains three windows, two-over-two double hung sash.

C. Description of Interior:

The main floor and basement have been extensively remodeled. What appears to be four original sections have been partitioned to form smaller offices. The floor has been covered by linoleum tile.

A loft above the main floor is entered by stairs in the rear addition. The loft is relatively unchanged, with painted brick walls and wood floors. The structure of the roof is not visible.

The building is heated by a central plant. While electricity was available on the post as early as 1890, the original lighting may have been gas.

- D. Site: The building faces east. The ridge of the roof runs north-south. The storehouse is situated on Lyster Road between housing for non-commissioned officers on the north and a building housing work shops on the south.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian; and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.